

Investing in Our Future at the U.S. - Africa Leaders Summit **August 6, 2014**

BACKGROUND

In August, President Obama will welcome leaders from across the African continent to the Nation's Capital for a historical three-day U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit.

As part of the Summit on August 6, the Office of the First Lady, the George W. Bush Institute, and the U.S. Department of State are hosting ***Investing in Our Future at the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit***, a day-long forum at the Kennedy Center focused on the impact of investments in education, health, and public-private partnerships. This collaboration builds on the Bush Institute's 2013 African First Ladies Summit, *Investing in Women: Strengthening Africa*, which also included a conversation with First Lady Michelle Obama and former First Lady Mrs. Laura Bush moderated by Cokie Roberts.

The 2014 *Investing in Our Future at the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit* will convene African First Spouses from more than 35 countries; leaders from non-governmental organizations and non-profits; private sector partners; faith-based and grassroots organizations; and other leading experts. The forum will address challenges and identify solutions for societal issues that primarily face women and girls, including education, health, and economic opportunity. We will also highlight the critical role first spouses play as advocates for women and girls and showcase success stories, best practices in public-private partnerships, and announcements of new initiatives and partnerships that will empower women's roles in society and lead to improved outcomes for women and girls on the continent of Africa.

The inclusion and participation of women in every aspect of society is proven to lead to greater stability and prosperity of countries. When a girl is educated, she marries later, has fewer children, is healthier, and her family is more educated and successful. A woman's health has a profound effect on her family's well-being, including the vitality and future of her children as well as her ability to contribute to the livelihood of the family.

Because of the verified significance of women's inclusion, *Investing in Our Future at the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit* will feature panels emphasizing the importance of women and girls' education, women's health – specifically cancers that afflict women and maternal and child health – and economic opportunity for women through entrepreneurship, technology, and agricultural innovations. Many African nations are making strides in these areas and the forum will celebrate this progress.

Overview: *Investing in Our Future at the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit*

The forum will begin with a conversation between First Lady Michelle Obama and Mrs. Laura Bush to discuss the unique role and platform of a first spouse. Following their discussion, moderated panels will highlight key interventions, best practice solutions, and public-private partnerships in girls' education, women's health, and economic opportunity that can be adopted and replicated for significant impact. We will also

feature African first spouses, spotlighting success stories where African first spouses have effected change. First spouses will receive information on issues that they might choose to champion, with the goal of coordinating and increasing support and opportunities for women and girls across the region. The forum also includes a special marketplace and networking reception to showcase a select group of outstanding organizations and companies that are supporting women and girls in Africa.

Finally, the forum will provide a platform for The White House, the Bush Institute's First Ladies Initiative, and Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon® to highlight their work related to proven interventions for women and girls, and to announce new initiatives and partnerships which will lead to improved outcomes for women and girls on the continent of Africa.

As part of the Bush Institute's First Ladies Initiative, follow-up training sessions are planned for senior advisors to African First Ladies to promote the adoption of effective practices in developing public-private partnerships, managing a First Lady's office, and leveraging the platform of a First Lady to make lasting change.

Session & Panel Overviews:

A Life-Saving Collaboration to Combat Cervical and Breast Cancer: Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon®

Cervical and breast cancer are the primary causes of cancer deaths among women in sub-Saharan Africa. Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon® is the leading public-private partnership to combat cervical and breast cancer on the continent, led by the George W. Bush Institute, the U.S. Government through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Susan G. Komen®, and the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, along with 15 other partners. This session highlights the progress made since the September 2011 launch of Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon®, including efforts in Botswana, Zambia and Tanzania to raise awareness of the diseases and increase access to quality services to detect and treat them. Another important theme is the role of national leadership, including that of a First Spouse, in galvanizing a country to make the fight against women's cancers a national priority. During the session, Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon® will announce the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Republic of Namibia as its two new countries of engagement; and the new Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon® Ambassadors.

Education: Creating Opportunities and Investing in the Next Generation of Women Leaders

Research shows that giving girls a quality education has tremendous multiplying effects for families, communities, societies, and the world — for generations. However, in 47 out of 54 African countries, girls have less than a 50 percent chance of completing primary school. These low odds are compounded by issues such as child marriage, trafficking, and the undue burden that HIV/AIDS and other diseases place on female-headed households (through loss of income and orphaned children). Improving access to quality education for all – with special attention to girls – is critical for the future of healthy families, communities, and countries worldwide. Each additional year of

schooling increases a woman's income by up to 25 percent and reduces child mortality by 18 per thousand. According to the International Food Policy Research Institute, investing in girls' education has the potential to increase agricultural output by 25 percent and improve food security. This panel spotlights transformative education interventions and programs for women and girls and the benefits of education to them, their families and their nations. Panelists will discuss interventions that employ public-private partnership models, cross-sector collaborations, and technology to improve access to educational opportunities for girls.

Public-Private Partnerships: Fostering Women's Economic Participation and Promoting Healthy Lives Through Technology and Training

Studies show that empowering women economically and fostering women's entrepreneurship can lead to further stability and growth across the globe. Around the world, women own approximately 25-33 percent of all private businesses in the formal economy, but they generally do not own the means of production and win less than one percent of the business contract opportunities. Women invest up to 90 percent of their earnings on their families as compared to men who invest 30 to 40 percent of their earnings in their households. Women produce 50 percent of food grown worldwide, and in sub-Saharan Africa, they produce 80-90 percent. Yet women own only two percent of titled land and receive less than 10 percent of all available farm credit in Africa. Investing in women entrepreneurs is a strategic approach to build stronger communities, stable societies, and sustainable economies. In Africa, where it is predicted that seven of the world's 10 fastest-growing economies will emerge over the next five years, financial inclusion of a woman is critical to fostering sustainable growth. The panel will explore ways that key stakeholders, including the private, public, and non-profit sectors in technology, agriculture, and health are effectively improving the lives of women through entrepreneurship to advance Africa's development.

Marketplace and Networking Reception

A special marketplace and networking reception will showcase a select group of outstanding organizations and companies that are supporting women and girls in Africa. The marketplace will allow First Spouses and other attendees to view products that are made in Africa or that directly benefit African women and girls, participate in hands-on demonstrations of innovative technology used in Africa, and learn about organizations and companies that are having a positive effect in education, health, and economic opportunity for women and girls. Guests will have an opportunity to network with each other and African first spouses to identify opportunities to work together.